

MARVEL

17

**ABNETT
LANNING
ALVES
BORGES
HANNA**

SECRET INVASION™

NOVA®

ENTER:

DARKHAWK



THE CENTURIONS OF THE NOVA CORPS WERE ONCE THE PROTECTORS OF PEACE AND ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE. BUT THEN THE ANNIHILATION WAR DESTROYED THEM—ALL EXCEPT ONE. YOUNG EARTHMAN RICHARD RIDER, NOW IMBUED WITH THE SUPER-INTELLIGENT WORLDMIND COMPUTER AND THE COMBINED POWER OF THE CORPS, WAGES A ONE-MAN BATTLE FOR JUSTICE AS...

NOVA

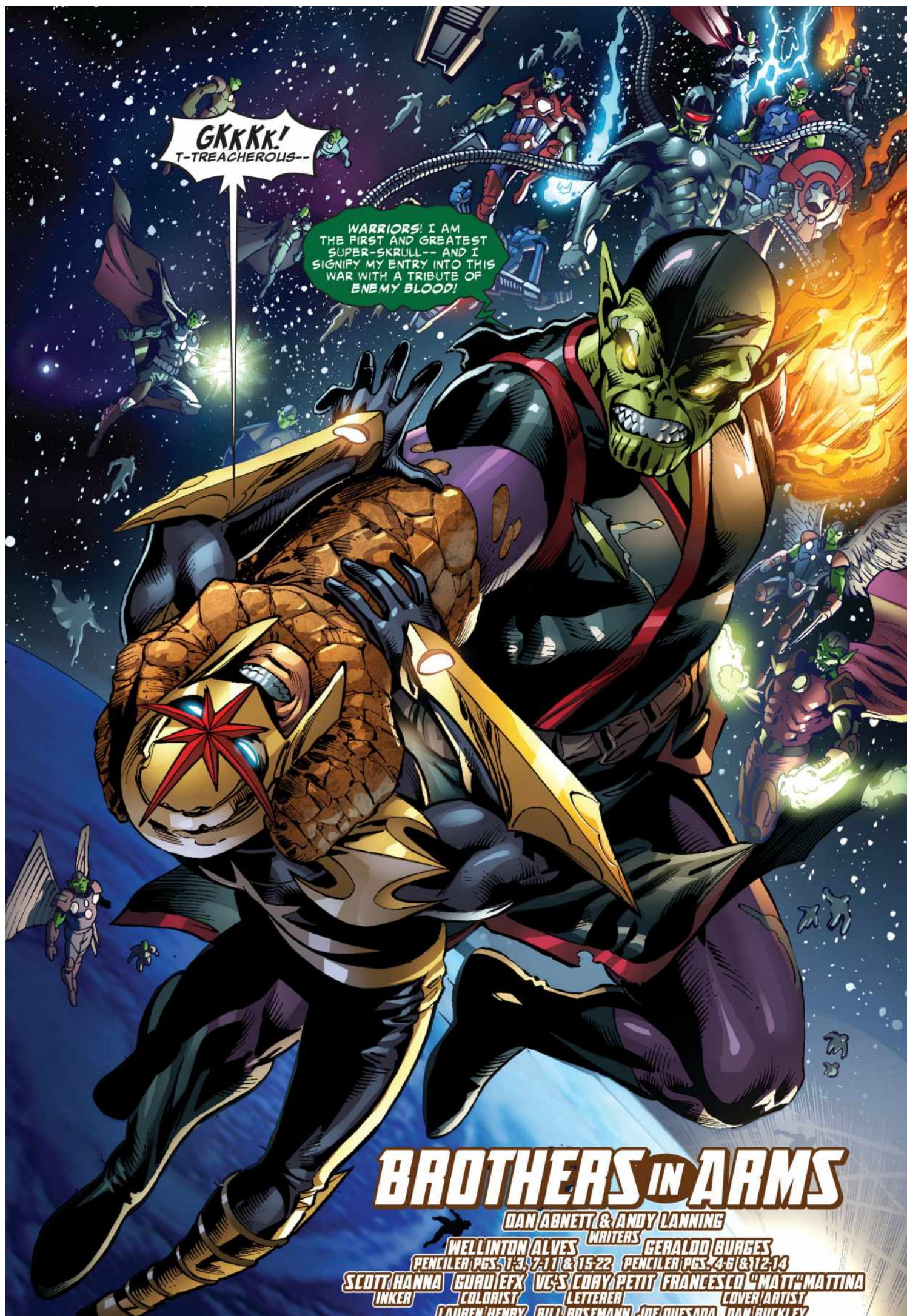


NOVA SURVIVED THE APOCALYPTIC WRATH OF THE DESTRUCTIVE ENTITY KNOWN AS GALACTUS, BUT THE COST HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. DURING HIS EFFORTS TO ESCAPE THE PLANET EATER, THE WORLDMIND COMPUTER, NOVA'S CONSTANT MENTAL MENTOR, WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED AND SUFFERED A TOTAL SYSTEM FAILURE.

SOON AFTER, A SKRULL HIT SQUAD AMBUSHED AND ATTEMPTED TO MURDER NOVA, BUT KL'RT, THE ORIGINAL SUPER-SKRULL, THWARTED THE ATTACK AND INFORMED NOVA OF THE SKRULLS' SECRET INVASION OF EARTH, WHICH HE DISAPPROVES OF DUE TO ITS JIHADIST NATURE.

WHEN NOVA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR HIS HOME WORLD, KL'RT REQUESTED NOVA'S AID IN REACHING EARTH VIA HIS STARGATE. NEVER FULLY TRUSTING KL'RT, BUT FEELING INDEBTED TO HIM, NOVA AGREED AFTER KL'RT EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF HIS ESTRANGED DAUGHTER, WHO NOW LIVED ON THE PLANET.

BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT EARTH, THE DUO WAS IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED BY THE SKRULL ARMADA...AND KL'RT BETRAYED NOVA!



GKkkk!
T-TREACHEROUS--

WARRIORS! I AM
THE FIRST AND GREATEST
SUPER-SKRULL-- AND I
SIGNIFY MY ENTRY INTO THIS
WAR WITH A TRIBUTE OF
ENEMY BLOOD!

BROTHERS IN ARMS

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*TO FOLLOW KL'RT'S ADVENTURES, CHECK OUT SHE-HULK #32 & #33
BAROON BILL







**THE ADIRONDACKS,
UPSTATE NEW YORK.**



PROJECT:
P.E.G.A.S.U.S.,
HUH, ROB?

I ALWAYS
KNEW YOU'D
END UP PLAYING
IN THE BIG
LEAGUES.



OH,
THIS IS
BAD...



...THIS
IS SKRULL
BAD.

WHAT THE
HELL HAPPENED
HERE?

HELLO?
HELLO? I'M
LOOKING FOR
ROBBIE
RIDER?

HELLO?









BLUE BLAZES, CHRIS! DON'T MAKE ME DO THAT AGAIN!

TALK TO ME! ASK ME A QUESTION ONLY I WOULD KNOW. LET'S ESTABLISH WE'RE BOTH WHO WE SAY WE ARE.

D-DO YOUR WORST, SKRULL.

I'M NOT A SKRULL!

THEY ALL SAY THAT TOO.



ONE MORE STEP AND WE TAKE YOUR HEAD OFF.

RCCHAKK KRRKK RCCHKK

AH.



STEADY, GUYS. I DON'T WANT TO TURN THIS INTO A JOHN WOO OUTTAKE.

INTRUDER IS SURRENDERING, SECURITY CHIEF DARKHAWK.

KEEP HIM COVERED, GUARDSMAN SIX.

LISTEN, I ONLY CAME HERE TO FIND MY BROTHER. ROBERT RIDER. IS HE HERE, YES OR NO?



RICHIE? THAT REALLY YOU?

ROBBIE!

TECHNICIAN RIDER! GET BACK! IT COULD BE--

IT'S MY BROTHER, NUMBNUTS!

PROJECT: P.E.G.A.S.U.S. SUB LEVEL 1...

...SO, THE SKRULLS HIT US AROUND LUNCHTIME. THE GUARDSMEN AND 'HAWK--HE'S THE NEW HERO ASSIGNED TO PEGASUS--FOUGHT THEM OFF, BUT IT WAS TIGHT.

THE SKRULLS INFECTED THE STARKTECH WE USE. WE'VE LOST MAIN POWER, SEVERAL PRIMARY SYSTEMS... EVEN THE GUARDSMAN ARMOR IS OFF-LINE.

GIVEN THEIR PATTERN OF ATTACK, IT WAS A **NO-BRAINER** THAT PEGASUS WOULD BE A KEY TARGET.

THIS RESEARCH LAB IS **LOADED** WITH CRAZY TECH.

GATE NINE, COMING THROUGH!

SO, SECURITY CHIEF AT PROJECT: P.E.G.A.S.U.S., CHRIS? GOOD FOR YOU.

SKIP IT. YOU WERE DOING YOUR JOB, AND I COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING.

IT'S A PAYCHECK. LOOK, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT--

NO HARD FEELINGS, THEN?

LOOK, I MAY KNOCK IT, BUT I TAKE THIS JOB **SERIOUSLY**. WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO REGISTER, JUSTICE RECOMMENDED ME FOR IT. I--

OH, COME ON, YOU TWO! I THOUGHT IT WAS **BASIC ETIQUETTE** FOR SUPER HEROES TO SMACK ONE ANOTHER AROUND ON FIRST MEETING BEFORE **REALIZING** THEY WERE ON THE SAME SIDE.

HAVE WE LEARNED NOTHING FROM TEAM-UPS?

HEH. YOU GUYS ARE SUCH KIDDERS.

OKAY, THIS IS **CONTROL ONE**. WE'VE GOT POWER IN HERE, FOR NOW AT LEAST.

RICH, MEET **PROJECT DIRECTOR GRUENWALD** AND MY LINE CHIEF, ROBOTICS HEAD **DOCTOR NECKER**.

YOU'VE CAUGHT US AT A BAD TIME, NOVA.

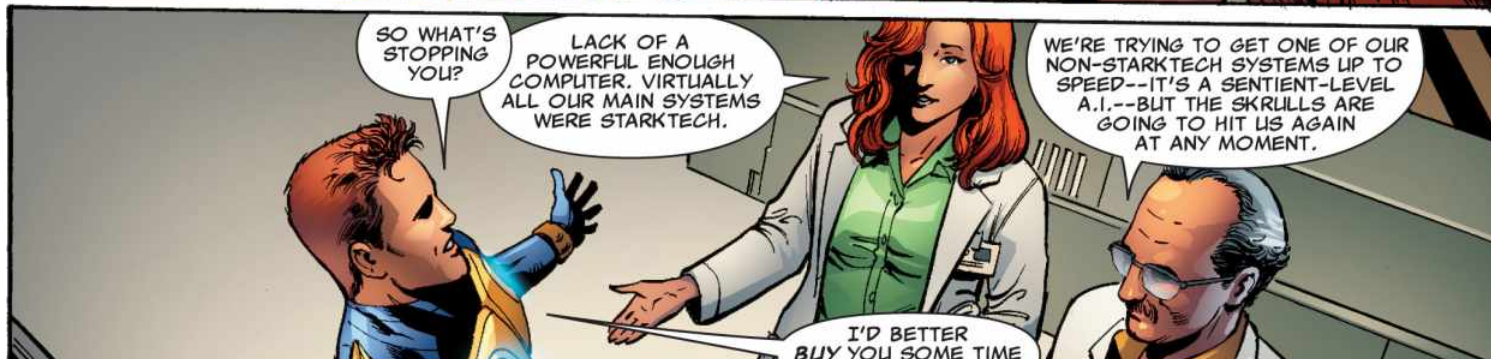
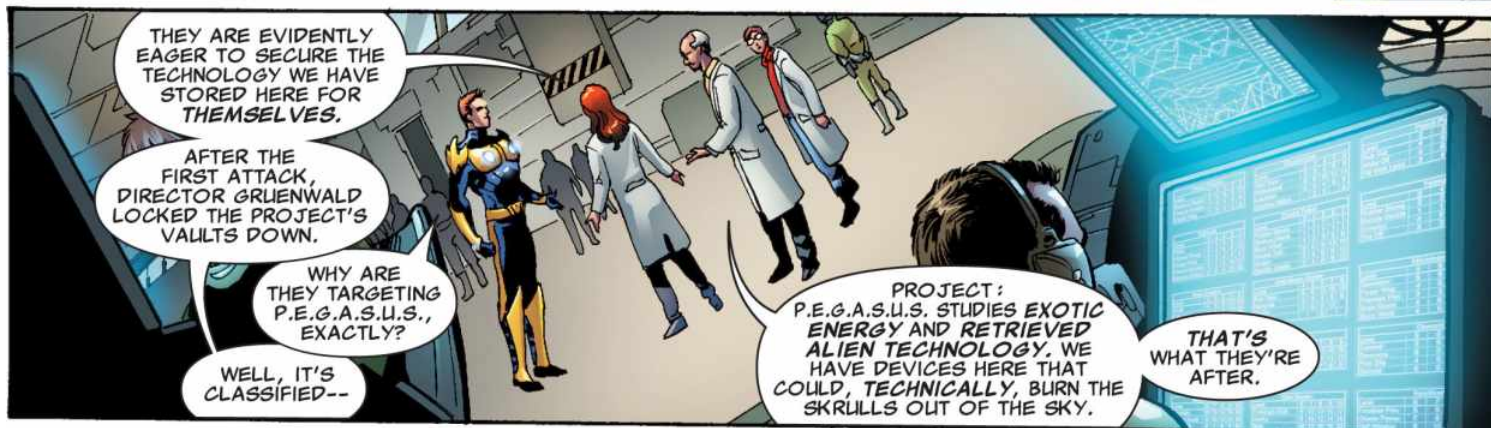
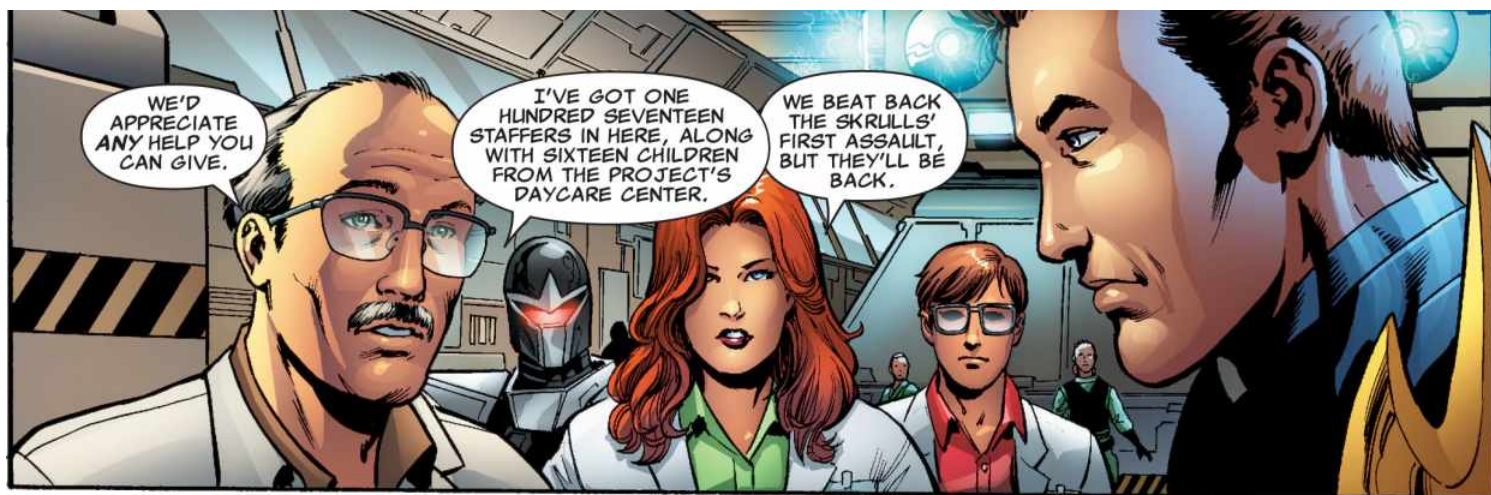
NOT SO BAD I CAN'T HELP, I HOPE, DIRECTOR.

DOCTOR NECKER.

SIR.

HOW WAS IT, GROWING UP WITH HIM AS A KID BROTHER? WANT TO KILL HIM, MUCH?

ONLY ALL THE TIME.







SO ARE WE.

GUARDSMAN! STAY DOWN!

DON'T HOLD BACK!

LIKE I WAS GONNA.

CHRIS, DON'T GO CRAZY! STAY FOCUSED! STAY WHERE YOU CAN SEE ME!

ALL I CAN SEE ARE THE FACES OF THE KIDS FROM DAYCARE.

THEY DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY OF THIS.

THESE FRICKIN' ALIEN SONS OF--

I TOLD YOU TO KEEP UP WITH ME!
I--
LIGHNNNN!

YOU HURT?

J-JUST WINDED...

COME ON! BACK TO THE HATCH!

CHRIS! STAY TIGHT SO WE CAN COVER EACH OTHER!

FOR GOD'S SAKE! KEEP YOUR TEMPER IN CHECK AND WORK LIKE A

CHRIS!







HEH. NAAAH. I WAS A KID THEN. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS DOING.

OKAY, NOW DON'T WRIGGLE. C.A.T. SCANS HAVE LOCATED THE DEFUNCT MATRIX OF YOUR WORLDMIND.

WOW, THAT'S--

ROBERT, IF WE'RE CAREFUL, WE CAN REMOVE THE WORLDMIND MATRIX FROM YOUR BROTHER AND TEMPORARILY STORE IT IN THE GESTALT MAINFRAME PREPARED FOR THE MINION PROGRAM.

THAT IS, IF YOUR BROTHER AGREES.



YOU CAN DO THAT? YOU CAN ISOLATE AND REMOVE THE WORLDMIND?

WE HOPE SO, SIR. IF THE POWER HOLDS OUT.

AND THEN WHAT? CAN YOU REBOOT IT?

THAT'S THE PLAN. REBOOT IT, AND GET IT TO OPEN THE QUANTUM FLASK.



LIFE SUPPORT JUST WENT OFF LINE. OH GOD, THE SKRULLS HAVE GOTTEN INTO LIFE SUPPORT.

GUARDSMEN REPORT ATTACKS IN SECTIONS FIVE, SIXTEEN AND TWENTY, DIRECTOR!

LORD HELP US.

EVERYONE STAY CALM!



HURRY UP! WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO, JUST HURRY IT, ROBBIE!



RI--CHARD...
RI--CHARD...

WORLDMIND?
IS THAT YOU?

I CAN HEAR
YOU! WORLDMIND,
ARE YOU ALIVE?
ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT--

WHAT
HAPPENED TO ME,
RICHARD?

WORLDMIND?!

WORLDMIND?
ARE YOU THERE?

RRRRRAA!

YES,
I'M HERE...

YEOW!



BUT IT'S
ME. IT'S ME,
RICHARD.

OH MY
GOD.

WENDELL
VALIGN...

QUASAR?!

NEXT ISSUE: